

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 HA-05 NEAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAC-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3815
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 3)

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON GOI CABINET REJECTION

1. ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS ON JUNE 26 HEADLINE THE GOI
CABINET REJECTION OF EGYPT'S LATEST PEACE PROPOSAL. THE
CABINET'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE PROPOSAL AS AN ADVANCE-
MENT OF PRECONDITIONS TO NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDES THE CENTRAL
FOCUS OF THE PRESS REPORTS.

2. DAVAR (BLOCH), IN A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE, REPORTS THAT
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POLITICAL OBSERVERS EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT AT THE RAPIDITY
OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO WHAT IS NOT YET AN OFFICIAL
EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, THE JERUSALEM POST
(LANDAU, BRILLIANT, AND SAFADI) SAY THAT CABINET
SOURCES EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PURPOSE WAS
TO STEM WHAT IS REGARDED AS AN EGYPTIAN "NON-STARTER"
PROPOSAL BEFORE IT TOOK ROOT IN PUBLIC CON-

SCIOUSNESS, PARTICULARLY IN THE WESTERN WORLD. THE POST CLAIMS THAT THE IMPENDING VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO THE REGION AND CURRENT AMERICAN EFFORTS TO REVIVE THE PEACE PROCESS WERE ALSO CONSIDERATIONS WHICH THE CABINET TOOK INTO ACCOUNT IN ITS DECISION TO IMMEDIATELY REJECT THE EGYPTIAN PLAN IN PUBLIC.

3. HAARETZ (BENZIMAN) ASSERTS THAT MINISTER LANDAU PROPOSED THAT, IN VIEW OF EGYPTIAN INTRANSIGENCE, ISRAEL SHOULD RETRACT ITS PEACE PLAN AND AUTONOMY PROPOSAL. BENZIMAN CLAIMS THAT, AFTER CHARACTERIZING SADAT'S REMARKS AS PRECONDITIONS TO NEGOTIATIONS WHICH DISREGARDED THE EXISTENCE OF THE AUTONOMY PLAN, BEGIN REJECTED LANDAU'S PROPOSAL, RECOMMENDING INSTEAD THAT THE CABINET CONCENTRATE ON THE EGYPTIAN PLAN. HE PROPOSED THAT A CABINET STATEMENT BE ISSUED WHICH REJECTED SADAT'S APPROACH. BENZIMAN SAYS A NUMBER OF MINISTERS BRIEFLY EXPRESSED THEIR DOUBT THAT THERE WAS ANY REASON TO ISSUE A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED TO BEGIN'S PROPOSAL. BENZIMAN CLAIMS THAT THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE STATEMENT WAS MEANT TO SIGNAL TO EGYPT AND THE US THAT ISRAEL SEES NO BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION IN THE SADAT PROPOSAL.

4. ACCORDING TO THE POST REPORTERS, DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN IS UNHAPPY AGAIN WITH THE CABINET'S HARDLINE
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STANCE. BUT HE KEPT HIS PEACE THIS TIME, APPARENTLY INTENT ON MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, UNTIL THE FUROR CREATED BY HIS OUTBURSTS LAST WEEK HAS SUBSIDED. THEY NOTE THAT THE CABINET DECISION WAS CARRIED WITHOUT A VOTE.

5. IN A SEPARATE POST ARTICLE, BRILLIANT REPORTS - THAT MK ZALMAN SHOMAL (LIKUD), A KEY ADVISOR TO DAYAN, SAID THAT EGYPT'S PROPOSALS ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA PUT AN END TO HOPE THAT A PEACE AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH CAIRO WITHOUT AMERICAN INTERVENTION. HOWEVER, HAARETZ SAYS THAT DURING THE DRAFTING OF THE CABINET RESPONSE TO THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL, DAYAN EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO REFRAIN FROM GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOI IS DENYING SADAT HIS RIGHT TO SUBMIT ANY PEACE PROPOSALS HE SEES FIT, PROVIDED SUCH PROPOSALS DO NOT SET PRECONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL.
LEWIS

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